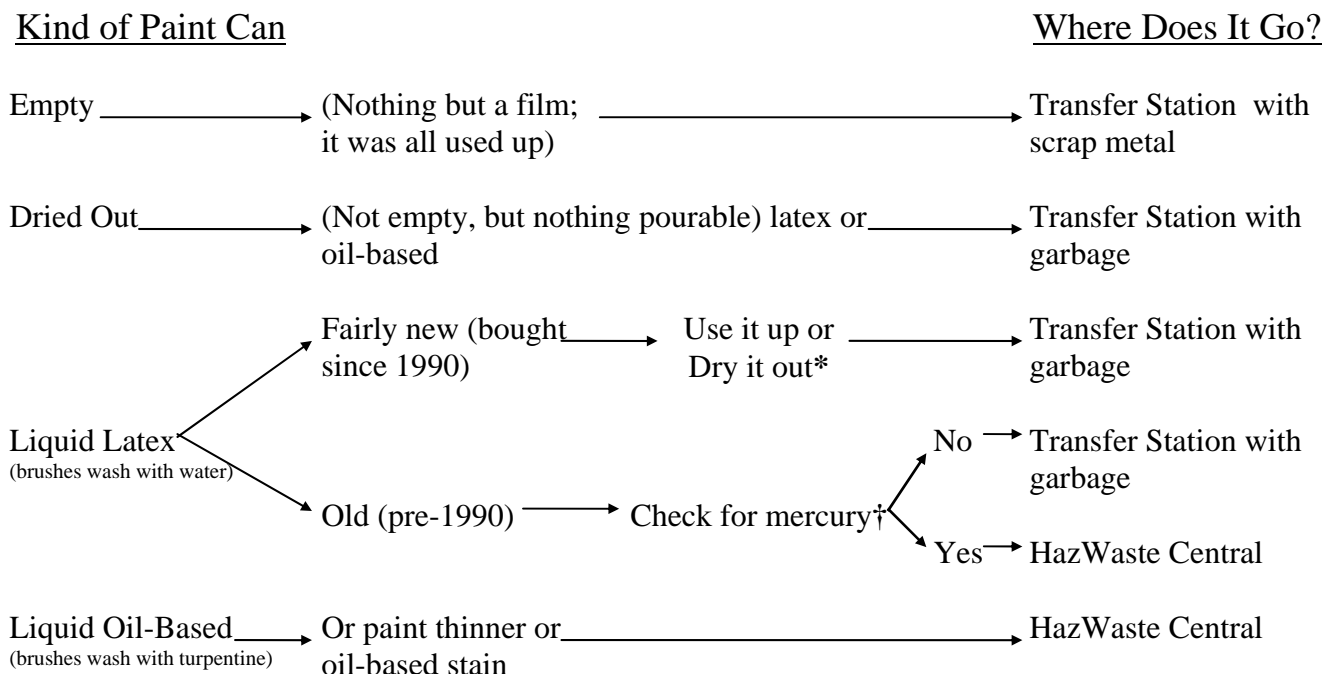


Proper Paint Disposal for Branford Residents



* Harden the paint (so there is nothing you could pour out) by

- Cracking the lid open and letting paint dry out in a safe area away from children and pets; or
- Adding kitty litter or sawdust to help the drying process; or
- Use it up by painting a board, or the inside of the garage.

† Find out if **old** latex paint (bought before 1990) contains **mercury** by calling HazWaste Central at 401-2712 with a list of the types and brands of paint in question.

If the label is **illegible** on liquid paint and you're not sure whether it's latex or oil-based, take it to HazWaste Central.

Branford Transfer Station 483-8641

747 East Main Street, Branford (Big blue building on Route 1 almost a mile past Leetes Island Road)
 Open Monday through Friday, 7:15 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. & Saturdays, 7:15 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. Plan to arrive at least half an hour before closing time. Branford residence sticker required.

HazWaste Central 401-2712

Regional Water Authority parking lot, 90 Sargent Drive, Long Wharf exit 46 off I-95, New Haven
 Open Saturdays 9:00 A.M. - noon from mid-May through the last Saturday in October.
 Closed Memorial, Independence, and Labor Day weekends. Accepts oil-based paint, car fluids, pesticides, cleaning products, etc. **No empty containers or latex paints!**



For more information call Peg Hall, Solid Waste Manager at 315-0622.

Recorded information available at this same phone number 24 hours a day.

A Paint Primer

It's spring and many of us start thinking about home improvement. The challenge for the environmentally conscious person is choosing the best paint for the results you want with the least impact on your health and the environment.

Paints that homeowners use are either latex (also called acrylic latex) or oil-based (also known as alkyd). Both types can contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or other toxic additives that can be harmful to your health when inhaled and contribute to poor air quality. Many of the products used with paints, such as thinners and strippers, also contain chemicals that are harmful.

Here are pointers for picking the right paint:

- ❑ Avoid oil or solvent-based paints. Oil-base paints can be trickier to use and require more chemicals, like turpentine for clean up. Instead, use latex paints, which are water-based. They are less harmful to you and the environment, clean up with water and are less expensive than oil-based paints. Latex is formulated for interior or exterior use. Exterior latex usually contains biocides to prevent the formation of mold and mildew.
- ❑ Look for paint with low or no VOCs and low odor. Green Seal, an independent, non-profit organization that identifies products and services that cause less toxic pollution and waste, has compiled a listing of paints that meet their standards. www.greenseal.org/certproducts.htm - paints
- ❑ Consider buying recycled content paint. Although the



color pallet may be limited, these high-quality paints can be an economical and environmentally preferable alternative to regular latex.

www.productstewardship.us/prod_paint_other.html

- ❑ Try out the color before you invest your money and time. Some paint manufacturers now sell samples in a wide range of colors. This can also provide a test of how well the paint will cover the surface or if you need a primer.

- ❑ Determine how much paint you need. You will save money and storage space by calculating the right quantity of paint for the job. Ask the retailer for help or use an on-line paint calculator. For a list of web sites that have paint calculators, go to www.earth911.org/master.asp?s=lib&a=paint/links.asp#calculator.

- ❑ Protect yourself and your family when painting. Read the label before you start and make sure your work area is well ventilated. If you are living in a house or apartment that was built before 1978, it may have surfaces painted with lead paint. Lead can cause irreversible brain and nerve injury. Before you prepare any surface, such as sanding, you should have it tested for lead. See, *Lead Paint Safety: A Field Guide for Painting Home Maintenance and Renovation Work* - www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Lead/pktmp000.pdf.



- ❑ Store leftover paint properly so that it can be used for touch-ups or another project. You want to keep air out of the can, so clean all the paint from the rim and firmly tap the cover in place. Store the tightly sealed can upside down. A skin will form on the lid and help the paint stay fresh. Store the paint away from heat and extreme cold. You could also donate usable paint to a community or school group. Nothing left over? Remember to recycle the paint can as scrap metal!

- ❑ Dispose of old paint properly. Do you have a lot of old, partially filled paint cans? If the latex paint has hardened, has rust or mildew or there just isn't enough of it to do anything with, you can completely dry the paint out by leaving the lid off or transfer it to a leak-proof bag and put enough kitty litter or shredded newspaper in the bag to absorb the liquid. You can then put the bag in your regular trash and recycle the can.

Latex paint is not considered hazardous waste, so it would not be accepted at a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection. However, latex paint manufactured before 1990 may contain mercury, so that should be accepted. (Oil-based paints and stains are hazardous waste and would be accepted at a HHW collection. To find a collection for your town, visit

www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm.) The towns of Barkhamsted, New Hartford, Winchester, Essex, Avon, Sharon and Salisbury have a DEP permit to collect paint. If you live in one of those towns, contact the transfer station for more information.

Now you know all there is to know about paint. If you could only decide on a color...